

JANUARY 2006

4th Landing Support Battalion Family Newsletter

www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thfssg/4thlsb/

Transportation Support Company News Camp Fallujah, Iraq December 2005

As we bring a close to 2005, we have a lot to be thankful for. This company of Warriors has come together from many different units and various points across our great nation to form a well-oiled machine. Different levels of experience have helped everyone become a better Marine. The operational tempo is always high as well as our spirits. Here is a snapshot of what we've done this quarter.

Operation Liberty Express was a huge success due in part (a HUGE part) to the Marines of TS Company. Truck drivers and heavy equipment operators swarmed the city streets of Fallujah in the late night and early morning hours of 14 and 15 October to set up over 100 barriers. LS platoon was engaged by ensuring a swift deployment of 60 pole workers by airlift capabilities. With some help from Marines and Soldiers from Al Taqaddum (TQ), we blocked off the streets leading to the polling sites to ensure a safe area for the citizens to vote on their new constitution. A record number of voters showed up on the 15th to exercise their *right* to vote. That night and into the morning of the 16th, we removed the barriers with swift efficiency and restored the city to normal. To finish, we drove all of the barriers to TQ for counting and ended the operation with no injuries or mishaps. Unlike previous elections where the coalition forces ran the entire show, this time the Iraqi Police played a major roll in *their* country's change.

Operation Liberty Express II was another resounding success for TS Company to read about in the history books. Almost a repeat of the October mission, this operation took place on 14-16 December. Fallujah was one of the focal points of the National Elections due to its unstable history.

Congratulations to those that were promoted and awarded this quarter!

Sabrina Nichols, Scott Beaudry, Christopher Contreras, Michael Flores, Nathan Griffin, and Nicholas Ortega were promoted to Corporal. Ian Boyd, Daniel Esteves, Benjamin Potts, Farith Robledo-Chavez, Brandon Shrawder, Andres Calvo, Andre Garcon, Timothy Wynn, Diono Jaurez, and Cristina Ramirez pinned on Lance Corporal.

Lance Corporals Joshua Barrett and Christopher Leyendecker were both Combat Meritoriously promoted to their present ranks and Michael Horvath was Meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal. Tyler Kautz and Joshua Clark were both Combat Meritoriously promoted to Corporal.

Gunnery Sergeants Matthew Wilson and Jason Campbell were selected to the rank of Master Sergeant.

The Purple Heart Medal was awarded to Lance Corporal John Walters for wounds received during a combat logistics patrol in October.

Good Conduct Medals were presented to Corporals Jennifer Crossen, Robert Cunio, Michael Flores, Darwin Garcia, Enoc Mendoza, Cory Picotte and Lance Corporal Johnny Tijerina.

Lance Corporals Donovan Koo, Tyler Kautz, Enrique Alvarez, Andres Calvo, and Nathan Riley each received a Meritorious Mast.

LZ East received a Letter of Appreciation from HMM-161 for their exceptional performance controlling the flow of personnel and cargo through Camp Fallujah. Their hustle and professionalism does not go unnoticed.

Two and a half months left and counting down!

Semper Fi
Gunnery Sergeant Jason E. Campbell



Transportation Support Company

Commanding Officer-Capt Shane M. Long
First Sergeant -Gunnery Sergeant Jason E. Campbell

Executive Officer-CWO-4 Gregory A. Sperling
Company Gunnery Sergeant-Staff Sergeant Phillip E. Shadden



2006 TAX INFORMATION

Military OneSource has announced that TurboTax 2005 will soon be available to Service Members for the upcoming tax season. Military OneSource will provide access to this great service at no cost to Service members. Intuit, the provider of TurboTax is currently working on updating their tax filing system with all the new rules and regulations for the next tax-filing season. The new version will be available in late December or early January. Once a specific date is set it will be posted at www.militaryonesource.com your 24/7 help with issues large and small.

The Key Volunteer Network for the Reserve community faces unique challenges. The families of a reserve unit are often geographically dispersed with varying access to military resources. The task of providing adequate communication and information and referral may require more volunteers than a unit whose families reside in one geographic area such as a Marine Corps installation. Because of this challenge, Reserve unit Commanding Officers may appoint a parent of a unit Marine to serve as a Key Volunteer. These parents often have insight into local resources and assistance available to unit families.

For information on MARFORRES Key Volunteer Network

<http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/hq/mccs/>

Key Volunteer Coordinators

Mrs. Cindy Griffin (BN) 253-630-3124

Gcifull@aol.com

Mrs. Stacy Morgen-Demer (I-I) 253-678-5094

facemorgen@yahoo.com

Key Volunteers

Mrs. Ingrid Espinoza (H&S Co) 253-840-5964

ingridesp@earthlink.net

Mrs. Bobbie Rickter (A Co) 360-458-8605

brickter@aol.com

Unit Telephone Numbers

4th LSB Staff Duty NCO 253-988-1071

SgtMajor Humphries-Family Readiness Officer

253-967-2869

thomas.humphries@usmc.mil

SSgt Adams-PWST/Assistant Family Readiness Officer

253-966-4180

rachel.adams@usmc.mil

***FOR MORE INFORMATION THE 4TH LSB KEY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
CONTACT CINDY GRIFFIN AT 253-630-3124 OR GCIFULL@AOL.COM OR
SGTMAJOR HUMPHRIES @ 253-967-2869***

FAMILY READINESS WEBSITE FOR CLB-8

<http://www.iimefpublic.usmc.mil/clb8>

MAILING ADDRESS FOR CLB-8

CLB-8 / TS Company / Platoon

2d FSSG FWD

Unit 73965

FPO AE 09502-3965

COMMANDING OFFICERS PHONE MESSAGE

There are 2 numbers to access it, 451-3201 or 1-800-664-7193. You'll hear the Commanding General's message followed by the major unit menu choices. To go directly to CLB-8 (it may still be listed as CSSD 28) dial 9 then 3 when you hear the start of the Commanding General's message.

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UPCOMING DRILL SCHEDULE 2004/2005

NOVEMBER 12 DECEMBER 2-4 JANUARY 7-8 FEBRUARY 11-12 MARCH 4-5
APRIL 1-2 MAY 4-7 JUNE AT JULY 7-9 AUGUST 4-6 SEPTEMBER 9-11 OCTOBER 1-2

HOA NEWS

Things are going well here. Sgt Parris and I just got back from our 96 in Kenya. Another Gunny that works with me went as well. We hiked Mt. Kenya and spent a couple days in Nairobi just relaxing. Cpl Larson went to Ethiopia late last month for his 96. He had a pretty good time as well.

We're all getting ready for Christmas here and keeping plenty busy in the meantime. Christmas looks to be just as enjoyable as Thanksgiving was if the chow hall is any indication of that. We'll all head down there to eat as a group on Christmas day I'm sure.

The Operation Homefront folks have been very supportive and have sent us some boxes. We're making sure to send thank you to everyone we can get an address or e-mail address from. Just trying to make sure we appreciate all the effort they are going to show their support.

Semper Fi
GySgt Jones

Mailing Address for Marines Deployed to Djibouti

Rank Name
S-6
Camp Lemonier, Djibouti - Africa
APO-AE 09363

Your regional contractor is for TRICARE is
1-888-874-9378



The Department of Defense (DoD) announces the start of health care coverage under TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS)-a new premium-based health plan for certain eligible National Guard and Reserve (Reserve Component) members and family members. For a monthly premium of \$75 for TRS member-only coverage and \$233 for TRS member and family member coverage, TRS offers comprehensive health coverage under the TRICARE Standard and Extra options. Premiums are adjusted annually on January 1.

"Eligibility to purchase TRS is determined by the member's Service/Reserve Component personnel office," said Mr. Steve Lillie, deputy chief, TRICARE Operations, TRICARE Management Activity.

Reserve Component members may be eligible to purchase TRICARE Reserve Select for themselves and their immediate family members if they were called or ordered to active duty under Title 10 in support of a contingency operation for more than 30 consecutive days on or after 9/11 (Sept. 11, 2001), and served continuously for 90 days or more. They also must enter into a Service Agreement through the Guard-Reserve Portal at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal> to serve in the Selected Reserve for one or more whole years. Then they must follow-up with their Service/Reserve Component to execute (complete) the Service Agreement on a DD Form 2895.

Members separating from qualifying active duty service on or after April 27, 2005, must enter into their Service Agreement through the Guard-Reserve Portal before their last day of active duty service and should contact their Reserve Component within four months after leaving active duty to execute the agreement. Members separating on or before April 26, 2005, have until Oct. 28, 2005, to execute their Service Agreement.

Upon completion of the Service Agreement, the Service/Reserve Component will record the member's eligibility in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Then the member will be able to purchase TRS-member only coverage for \$75/month (2005 rate) or TRS and family coverage for \$233/month (2005 rate).

To purchase TRS, members must select the type of coverage desired and submit a completed application including their verified DD Form 2895 and one-month's premium paid either by credit card, or by check, money order or cashier's check payable to their TRICARE regional contractor. "Once enrolled, TRS covered members and their covered family members may receive care from any TRICARE-authorized provider, hospital or pharmacy like they do under TRICARE Standard or Extra, as well as any DoD military treatment facility where care is on a space-available basis," Lillie said.

A TRS handbook, a list of Service contacts to verify eligibility and contacts for TRICARE regional contractors for TRS benefit information are available on the TRICARE Web site www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect.

REMINDER

**If your loved one is seriously injured you will be notified by the Family Readiness Officer (FRO) within 24 hours of the FRO receiving the information. Don't believe the so-called "prank" phone calls that something has happened to your Marine or Sailor.
Report such activity to your local police department immediately.
Trust only what you hear from your Marines Command, FRO, or from your loved one.**



Call 800-869-0278* now. MCCS One Source is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

If you or a family member needs support in addressing issues related to relationships, parenting, managing everyday life, or re-adjusting after being in a combat zone, then an MCCS One Source consultant can get you connected with a counselor in your community.

At MCCS One Source, a trained consultant is always available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.